

25 February 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John Bross

SUBJECT: Activities of Senior Review Panel

1. As you recently requested, the Panel has extracted from its files some examples of its substantive comments with respect to on-going intelligence assessments and efforts within NFAC and the Intelligence Community. These break out into three general categories: (1) comments on interagency papers during their preparation; (2) appraisals of past streams of intelligence reporting; and (3) suggested intelligence coverage.

2. Comments on interagency papers. Since its establishment in November 1978, the Panel has submitted 224 memoranda commenting on about 100 NIEs, SNIEs and IIMs in different stages of preparation, beginning with a concept paper; about two-thirds of these assessments concerned an individual country while the others were of a regional or topical nature. Attached examples are drawn primarily from nonmilitary papers and concern:

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3. Appraisals of past streams of intelligence reporting. These are informal appraisals in contrast to a formal post-mortem as was conducted by the Panel with respect to the Soviet Brigade in Cuba. An attached example concerns:

Tab O--Reporting on Nicaragua with Annex bringing out wider implications (Jun 1979)

4. Suggested intelligence coverage. Attached examples concern:

Tab P--Forces and trends in Central America and the Caribbean (May-Jul 1979)

Q--Soviet options in Afghanistan (Jul 1979)

R--Soviet Military Capabilities in Situations less than general war (Jan 1980)

S--Soviet military policies and forces in the 1980s (Aug 1979)

5. The Panel has not maintained a scorecard of the extent to which its comments and suggestions have been reflected in the published Estimates and Interagency Memoranda. We know that some have had little or no visible impact, and we have often reverted to the lines of earlier comments. A few of the Panel's comments have had a substantial impact, and there has been a variety of inbetween gradations. We are establishing procedures to compile an SRP audit trail for each major paper.

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Attachments:
As stated

cc: DD/NFA